NATURAL GAS (CAPTAIN SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The quantity and value of crude and petroleum products to be imported during the current year (1995-96) would depend on international prices, indigenous crude production, materialisation of the refining capacity and actual materialisation of demand.

(c) Indian Oil Corporation is the designated canalising agency for import/ export of crude oil and petroleum products.

(d) No commission is involved in the import arrangements made by Indian Oil Corpporation Limited.

Indian Efforts to become a Member of Security Council

894. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minsiter of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the last concluded UN Session the question of expansion and enlargement of Members of Security Council was discussed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian delegation had solicited support of some friendly countries for becoming member of the Security Council; and

(d) if so, the decision taken at the Session and also the outcome of opinion sought by the country for becoming Council Member thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A large number of countries made statements on restructuring of the Security Council. India expressed willingness to serve as permanent member of the Security Council. Mauritious, Bhutan, Dominican Republic and Cuba specifically supported India's inclusion in permanent members' category of the Security Council. Several others supported a broad-based expansion which would include developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America as permanent members. The Declaration adopted at the conclusion of the Special Commemorative meeting of the Heads of State/ Government to mark the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations called for further indepth consideration of Security Council restructuring since important differences on key issues continue to exist.

Ban Impsoed on Indian Vessels by Sri Lanka

895. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sri Lankan authorities have imposed a ban on the entry of sailing vessels of less than 1600 tonnes capacity into the harbour at Colombo Port;

(b) if so, whether it has adversely affected Indian Trade with that country as Indian sailing boats operating in the region are of far less capacity;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints from cargo vessel owners of Tuticorin in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to take up the matter with the Government of Sri Lanka and to lift the ban imposed on Indian vessels with results achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Sri Lankan Government have imposed ban on the entry of sailing vessels, with wooden hulls and of a gross tonnage of 1,600 or less into Colombo Port from 26.4.95.

(c) and (d) The National Boatmen's Union, Coastal Sail Vessel Owner's Association have brought to the notice of